

Amendments to the Drawings:

Applicants herewith submit 3 sheets of formal drawings depicting Figures 1-9. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Attachment: 3 sheets for formal drawings

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Applicants respectfully request search and consideration of the application as amended above in view of the following remarks.

Applicants submit herewith formal drawings of Figures 1-9 for consideration and approval of the Examiner. These drawings replace the informal drawings filed with the application.

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement with Form 1449 October 20, 2003. Consideration and acknowledgment of such consideration is respectfully requested by the Examiner initialing and signing the form PTO 1449 and returning the form to Applicants.

The Patent Office has required restriction of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §121 to one of Groups I or II, as follows:

- I. Claims 1-4 and 8-10, drawn to a method of shaping a spring; or
- II. Claims 5-7 and 11, drawn to a spring shaping tool.

The patent Office asserts the groups are patentably distinct because the process can be practiced by a "materially different apparatus or by hand." For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the rejection.

Independent claims 1, 5, 8, and 11, share substantial features in common such that searching for the features of one claim would inherently provide art suitable for examination of another claim. To separate the examination of the claims would cause search of substantially the same, and substantively overlapping, subject matter by different examiners within the Patent Office, and would cause Applicants to have to argue the same features in more than one application. All independent claims set forth by applicants include the following features:

- 1) a spring blank;
- 2) a spacer member;

- 3) an elongated slot into which the spring blank and spacer are pushed; and
- 4) that the spring blank is wrapped around the surface of the spacer member to form a shaped spring.

As stated in MPEP 803:

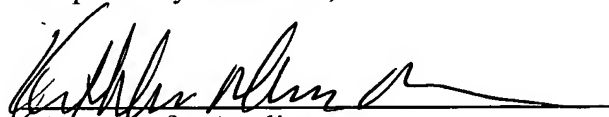
If the search and examination of ~~all~~ the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine ~~them~~ on the merits, even though ~~they~~ include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

Because so many features are common to all independent claims of the invention, the burden on the Examiner to search additional features of each and every independent claim is not too great. Thus, consideration of all pending claims 1-11 is in order, and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner maintain the restriction requirement, election of Group I, claims 1-4 and 8-10, are elected with traverse.

Should the Examiner require anything further, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,


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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.